Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of protecting a hydroxyl group, which comprises reacting a hydroxyl group-containing compound with a compound represented by the formula (I):

$$X \longrightarrow R$$
 (I)

wherein R is a phenyl group optionally having substituent(s), an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s) or a benzyl group optionally having substituent(s), and X is a halogen atom,

in the presence of an acid catalyst to substitute the hydrogen atom of the hydroxyl group of the hydroxyl group-containing compound with a protecting group represented by the formula (II):

$$\begin{array}{cccc}
& H_2 \\
C & & (II)
\end{array}$$

wherein R is as defined above.

- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein R is a phenyl group optionally having substituent(s) or an alkyl group optionally having substituent(s).
 - 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein R is an alkyl group.
- 4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the acid catalyst is pyridinium p-toluenesulfonate or p-toluenesulfonic acid.

- 5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the acid catalyst is pyridinium ptoluenesulfonate.
 - 6.-15. (Cancelled)